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(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF HETEROARYL ACETAMIDES

(57) **Abstract:** An improved process for the preparation of a heteroaryl acetamide from a heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide is provided. The process comprises directly hydrogenating the heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide in the presence of a strong acid, a halide and a catalyst. In one embodiment, the heteroaryl acetamide is zolpidem and the heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide is α -hydroxyzolpidem.

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